

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Buskirk (US 3,439,232). Van Buskirk discloses a system electrically coupling and fastening a electrical connector plate and bus bar (23) to a complementary device (26) comprising a opening in the connector plate (not labeled); a sleeve (24) inserted into the opening having a shoulder (not labeled) which rests on the first side of the connector; a ring (28) mounted around the sleeve resting against a second side of the plate and; an additional layer (21, 22) on the second side of the connector plate. The ring and sleeve are held in electrical contact with the plate by a tightening means. The tightening means is read as the riveting operation of the sleeve.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 are allowable. The prior art does not disclose the coplanar lower ends of the ring and sleeve in combination with the other features of the claims.

***Response to Remarks***

Applicants' arguments are moot in light of the indication of allowable claims and the new grounds of rejection.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Flemming Saether whose telephone number is 571-272-7071. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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